

“A New Australian Eulima,” by Henry A. Pilsbry.

“Descriptions of Two New Gray Foxes,” by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

“Some Notes on Coccidæ,” by T. D. A. Cockerell.

The deaths of Alexander Biddle, a member, and of Mariano Barceña and Sylvanus Hanley, correspondents, were announced.

*Relations of the Land Molluscan Fauna of South America.*—MR. H. A. PILSBRY spoke of the extrinsic relations of the land molluscan fauna of South America, recounting and commenting upon the various theories advanced to account for the relations existing between the South American, African and Australo-Zealandic faunas. The evidence of former Austral land connecting South America with Australasia derived from a study of the *Bulinulide*, the *Macroögonæ*, etc., was detailed. The speaker gave his reasons for preferring the hypothesis of a former extension of Antarctic land to that of a South Pacific continent, as advocated by Prof. Hutton<sup>1</sup> and some others. He claimed that the present fauna of southern Polynesia was not consistent with Hutton's supposition that these islands had been submerged and thus their fauna destroyed on the sinking of the supposed Pacific continent entirely below the sea, the present “islands being merely outgrowths on its submerged back.” Some Polynesian groups, such as *Partula*, belong to very primitive and therefore ancient groups, unknown in any other area, and indicating great antiquity for the Polynesian archipelagoes.<sup>2</sup> Neither is the present fauna of Polynesia consistent with the hypothesis that these islands are unsubmerged remnants of a Pacific continent.

The enigmatic relations of the fresh-water fishes, snails, and the terrestrial *Streptaxidae* of tropical South America with the African fauna were discussed.

The speaker considered the neotropical region of Wallace to be composite, the Antillean and southern Mexican area representing a tract independent from North and South America in Mesozoic and perhaps earlier time, on which the faunal problems had been independently worked out.

Various questions bearing on the communication were discussed by Dr. Calvert, Prof. Cockerell and Dr. Sharp.

<sup>1</sup> See Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 1896, p. 36, for an able paper advocating Prof. Hutton's views.

<sup>2</sup> *Partula*, like the allied *Achatinella* of the Hawaiian group, has a bottle-shaped kidney with direct, not reflexed, ureter, as in *Limnaea*. These forms have no relations with the *Bulinulide* and *Achatinide*, with which conchologists associate them, but lie at the base of the terrestrial pulmonate tree.